

**Minutes of the  
QUAD CITIES RIVERFRONT COUNCIL (QCRFC)**

LeClaire City Hall  
325 Wisconsin St  
LeClaire, IA, 52753  
Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 12:00 p.m.

Council Members in Attendance

Ms. Heather Bishop  
Ms. Barb Cray  
Mr. Rob Danielson  
Mr. Tim Kammler  
Mr. Greg Ludwig

Mr. James Peterson\*  
Mr. Jon Ramsdell  
Mr. Greg Schaapveld  
\* *Current QCRFC Officers*

Others in Attendance:

Mr. Adam Silas  
Mr. Zach Sutton  
Mr. Wayne Walley

1. **Call Meeting to Order** The meeting was called to order by Mr. Peterson at 12:03 p.m.
2. **Presentation.** Mr. Walley welcomed the members to LeClaire and introduced himself as chair of LeClaire's tourism board. He began the presentation by covering the city's popular tourism destinations like the Buffalo Bill Museum and the Riverboat *Twilight*, as well as their most popular events that include Tugfest (with Port Byron), Eaglefest, and Christmas in LeClaire. He discussed LeClaire's growth as a tourist destination in the last decade and a half, thanks to both community buy-in (the LeClaire Marketing Alliance is comprised of 30-35 businesses who pool resources to market the city) and good fortune (the stars of the popular TV series *American Pickers* are based in LeClaire). Mr. Walley then informed the council that there was an exciting new event that would be coming to LeClaire this summer: The Buffalo Bill Cody Show. The traveling show is a reenactment of *Buffalo Bill's Wild West* shows that toured in the late 1800s. The show features approximately 80 reenactors and over 30 horses. LeClaire's plan is to make the Bill Cody show part of the city's 190<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations, which will also feature a number of events on the levee.
3. **Approval of the January 23, 2024 QCRFC Meeting Minutes.** Ms. Bishop made a motion to approve the January 23, 2024 minutes. Mayor Cray seconded, and the meeting minutes were approved.
4. **Nomination of Officers.** Mr. Sutton informed the council that, as had been discussed at the previous meeting, the officers had agreed to move up one level, with Mr. Jeff Reiter succeeding to the position of President and Mr. Peterson succeeding to position of Vice-President while Mr. Chris Matthias would end his term as president. This would leave the secretary position vacant and would need to be filled. Mr. Peterson asked for nominations for the secretary position. Mr. Kammler

nominated Mr. Schaapveld, who accepted the nomination, and Ms. Bishop seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations and Mr. Schaapveld became secretary of the Riverfront Council.

## 5. **Individual Riverfront Reports.**

- *Mercer County/New Boston* – Mr. Peterson gave a series of updates regarding activities in Mercer County. Keithsburg has upgraded their discharge pumps, and plans are in place to build a new pavilion in town. Additionally, plans for dredging the river in New Boston have been approved. Across the river, work on the Port Louisa and Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuges continues.
- *Port Byron* – Mayor Cray stated that Port Byron had begun preparations for the celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding, which will take place in 2028. Additionally, the old bank building in town had been bought and will be converted into an event center. Preparations are also underway for the Port Byron to East Moline half marathon, which will be held on Memorial Day.
- *LeClaire* – Mr. Ludwig reported that progress had been made in ensuring that a bike/pedestrian path would be present on the new I-80 bridge. LeClaire had also received federal funding for an extension of their section of the Mississippi River Trail. Other developments included moving forward with plans to build a sidewalk on Wisconsin Street and the YMCA initiating a study to explore possibly opening a location in LeClaire.
- *Scott County* – Mr. Schaapveld informed the council that two bridge projects over Spencer Creek had been announced as well as another bridge project on the old Highway 61.
- *East Moline* – Mr. Kammler reported that the RAISE grant implementation process was ongoing and that a new channel cat dock was in development at the Hyatt, but work cannot proceed until environmental clearance is given.
- *US Army Corps of Engineers* – Ms. Bishop said that the Quad Cities will be hosting the Society of American Military Engineers Small Business Industry Day in April. Additional updates included that the UMR restoration work was still on going, the Assistant Secretary of the Army would be in Iowa City on April 15, the Thompson Ranges station would be opening May 15, and the new commander of the Arsenal, Colonel Williams, will be arriving May 23. She also stated that the Arsenal would be hosting a number of Armed Forces Day events on May 18.
- *Rock Island Arsenal* – Mr. Ramsdell reiterated what Ms. Bishop said about the Armed Forces Day event, then highlighted the Arsenal various efforts to encourage public visits. These efforts include offering a 1-year recreation pass and opening the Arsenal's recreation facilities (including kayak rental) to the public. He also offered the Arsenal museum, which reopened last year, as a location for the council's May meeting.
- *Bi-State Regional Commission* – Mr. Sutton informed the group that the Illinois EPA had opened two grant opportunities for watershed management projects to address nonpoint source pollution, and promised to send the link to the Notice of Funding Opportunity to those who wanted it. He also informed the group that a Transportation and Infrastructure seminar would be held at Bally's in Rock Island on April 11. Finally, Mr. Sutton told the group that no

certificate of appreciation nomination forms had been submitted, so none would be awarded this year.

6. **Next Meeting.** Mr. Peterson reminded the members that the next meeting is scheduled for May 28.
7. **Other Business.** None
8. **Adjournment.** Mr. Kammler moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Bishop seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:54 p.m.